

ST. GILES IN THE FIELDS *and* ST. GEORGE, BLOOMSBURY.

PLAN OF ASSOCIATION

FOR

PRESERVING TRANQUILLITY IN THE METROPOLIS,

AND

PROTECTING AND DEFENDING

THE

LIVES AND PROPERTIES

OF ITS

INHABITANTS.

AT a Joint Vestry of the United Parishes of St. GILES in the Fields and St. GEORGE, Bloomsbury, held in the Vestry Room of the said Parish of St. GILES in the Fields, on Monday the 12th Day of June, 1797;

THIS Vestry having been convened "to consider of the Propriety of agreeing to
" associate and unite for the Purpose of preserving Tranquillity in the City of West-
" minster, and its Environs, and to use the utmost Endeavours to protect and defend
" the Lives and Properties of the Inhabitants, on a Plan similar to that recommended
" by the Common Council of the City of London,"—it was resolved unanimously,

That in the present Situation of this Country, we think it expedient to associate amongst
ourselves, and with such other Inhabitants, Householders of these Parishes, or their Sons,
as approve of our Plan, and are willing to submit to such Regulations as we shall adopt
for the Support of the Laws and Government of our Country, the Preservation of
Peace, Tranquillity, and good Order in the Capital, and the Protection and Defence of
the Lives and Properties of its Inhabitants.

That the said Plan, recommended by the Common Council of London (as now
read), be adopted, as far as the same is applicable to these Parishes; and, that this
Vestry, and such other Inhabitants, Householders in these Parishes, or their Sons,
who shall approve of, and submit to such Regulations, do sign a Declaration, as follows:

" We, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, fully confiding in the known Zeal,
" Loyalty, and Bravery of the Army and Militia of the Nation, and desirous of giving
" the most ample Scope to their Exertions at the present important Crisis, do hereby
" promise and agree to associate and unite, for the Purpose of preserving Tranquillity in
" the Metropolis, and to use our utmost Endeavours to protect and defend the Lives and
" Properties of its Inhabitants.

" That such of us, as are able to give Time from our indispensable Avocations, will
" provide ourselves with, and learn the Use and Discipline of Fire Arms, and enrol
" ourselves for that Purpose under such Officers as may, by the Recommendation of a
" Committee of our Parishes, be appointed to command us.

" That

“ That such of us as cannot devote the Time necessary to acquire the Use and Discipline of Arms, will provide ourselves with Constable's Staves, Two Feet Two Inches long, and will take the Oath of Extra-Constables, and serve as such whenever called upon by the Magistrates, or by those who, by the Recommendation of a Committee of our Parishes, may be appointed to command us.

“ That we will all, in Cases of Alarm, immediately repair to such general Rendezvous, within our Parishes, as may be fixed upon, and be there ready to obey such Orders, as may be given us by our Magistrates, or Officers, for protecting and defending the Tranquillity of the Metropolis.”

RESOLVED by this Vestry,

That any Gentleman who shall subscribe the Declaration in either Class (to learn the Discipline of Arms, or serve as Extra-Constables), shall be permitted to change his Name to the other, with the Approbation of the Committee.

That as soon as our Plan is completed, it shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to be laid before His Majesty for his Royal Approbation, together with the Names of such Persons who may be recommended for Officers.

At a Vestry held for the said Parishes, in the Vestry Room aforesaid, on Thursday, the 15th of June, 1797, it was

RESOLVED,

That it be recommended to the Churchwardens to take care that the Declaration agreed to at the last Vestry be carried round to every Member who was then absent, with a Request to signify their Assent or Dissent thereto, and that such of them as approve it, should subscribe their Names to the said Declaration.

That it appears to this Vestry, that the Resolutions already entered into should be printed, and sent round to every Householder within these united Parishes, requesting, that all such as are desirous of subscribing the Declaration at the last Vestry, shall send in their Names and Places of Abode to the Vestry Room of St. Giles's.

That the Committee to be appointed by this Vestry, shall determine what Number of those who offer to qualify themselves for the more efficient Service of the Public, by learning the Use of Fire Arms, will be a reasonable Quota for these Parishes to furnish, for the common Defence of the public Peace in the Metropolis, and the Lives and Properties of its Inhabitants; and that such Number be selected by Ballot out of the Householders, and Sons of Householders, who shall send in their Names and Places of Abode, as willing and desirous of giving their Services to the Public.

That such Persons as are willing to serve in the Armed Association, do provide themselves with necessary Arms and Accoutrements, and with a plain and decent Uniform, such as shall hereafter be settled by the Committee, to whom it shall be referred to provide the same in the best and least expensive Manner.

That the Number to be enrolled be divided into Companies of Fifty each; and that each Company shall have One Captain, Two Lieutenants, and One Ensign, to be recommended by the Committee to His Majesty for Commissions; and such Number of non-commissioned Officers as shall be hereafter fixed by the Committee.

That the whole, when called out, shall be under the Command of One Field Officer, to be recommended in like Manner by the Committee, with such Rank as His Majesty shall think proper to grant.

That



That the Persons who shall have so enrolled themselves shall attend at such Times as shall be appointed by the Committee or the Officers, for the Purpose of learning the Use of Fire Arms, and the necessary military Evolutions; and shall not absent themselves without reasonable Cause of Absence, unless they shall previously signify their Intention of leaving Town for such Time as their Occasions may require; and that those who shall so leave Town, shall, upon their Return, signify the same to their commanding Officer.

That as many Persons may approve of this Association, and be desirous of assisting to carry its Purposes into Effect, whose Age, Sex, State of Health, official Engagements, and other Causes, may prevent them from engaging themselves to personal Service, it is the Opinion of this Vestry, that a Subscription be opened for all such as wish to contribute to the extra Expences that may attend the Execution of this Plan, so as to prevent the same from falling on those who shall engage themselves to personal Service.

That the Members of this Association will hold themselves in Readiness, upon any Alarm, to attend, with their proper Arms and Accoutrements, upon the Order of the civil Magistrates or their Officers, at such Place of Rendezvous as shall be appointed, there to act as they shall be ordered, for the Purposes for which they have associated.

RESOLVED,

That Mr. JOHN BITTLESTON, one of the Churchwardens, be Treasurer for receiving Subscriptions in Money for the Purpose aforesaid.

That a Book for entering Subscriptions in Money, towards defraying the extra Expences of the Association, do lie in the *Vestry Room* aforesaid every Day from Ten till Two; and that such Inhabitants as may be inclined to subscribe in that Manner be earnestly requested to send their Subscriptions either there, or to the Treasurer's in *High Street*, or to the Banking House of Messrs. CHILD and Co. at *Temple Bar*; and that those who pay their Subscriptions at the *Vestry Room* be desired to cause their Names, Places of Abode, and the Sums they chuse to subscribe, to be inserted in the Book that will lie there.

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